

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 NEA-06 ISO-00 ACDA-05 IO-10 EB-07 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /088 W

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R 181621Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6688

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 16523

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK, EG

SUBJECT: BRITISH-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS

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SUMMARY: BRITISH-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS ARE ROCKING ALONG ON

NORMAL COURSE DESPITE RECENT DUST-UP OF (MAINLY)
PALESTINIAN INSPIRATION. END SUMMARY.

1. THERE HAS BEEN NO REPEAT NO PROTEST BY ARAB AMBASSA-
DORS IN LONDON TO HMG ON WILSON'S REMARKS AT THE DINNER
FOR MEIR (CAIRO 9884, LONDON 16001), FCO INFORMS US.

2. ON DECEMBER 14 FM FAHMY ACCEPTED HMG INVITATION TO
VISIT CALLAGHAN IN LONDON. MARCH DATES PROPOSED BY
BRITISH WERE NOT CONVENIENT AND VISIT IS LIKELY TO TAKE
PLACE EITHER IN FEBRUARY OR IN APRIL. FCO TELLS US
EGYPTIANS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO FIX A FAHMY MEETING WITH
CALLAGHAN SINCE LATTER TOOK OFFICE. FAHMY EVEN WANTED
TO STOP OVER IN GENEVA ON HIS WAY TO OR FROM US WHEN
CALLAGHAN WAS THERE IN CONNECTION WITH CONFERENCE ON
CYPRUS. LATEST DUST-UP OVER WILSON'S REMARKS HAS IN-
CREASED IMPORTANCE OF SUCH MEETING.

3. BRITISH ARE TRYING TO SET UP VISIT TO EGYPT FOR
EDWARD SHORT, LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS (DEPUTY
PRIME MINISTER). THIS IS TO BALANCE OFF SHORT'S VISIT
TO ISRAEL IN SEPTEMBER AND (AS FCO OFFICIAL PUT IT,
CONFIDENTIALLY) TO HELP "EDUCATE" A PROMINENT BRITISH
ZIONIST. EGYPTIANS HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE; DATES
BEING WORKED OUT (SINCE ORIGINAL REQUEST FOR JANUARY WAS
NOT MUTUALLY CONVENIENT).

4. COMMENT: EGYPTIANS ARE EXPRESSING SOME IRRITATION
WITH WILSON POSTURE, BUT REAL DRIVE IS FROM PLO, WHOSE
REPRESENTATIVE IN LONDON HAS BEEN EXPRESSING DISPLEASURE
DIRECTLY TO FCO OFFICIALS ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS OVER PAST
COUPLE OF WEEKS. BRITISH THINK EGYPTIANS ACCEPT THAT
HMG POLICY IS REPRESENTED BY OFFICIAL STATEMENTS AND
ACTIONS OF FCO, RATHER THAN ISOLATED PERSONAL GESTURES
OF PRIME MINISTER.

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